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14. ABSTRACT Development and fielding of the F-35A represents one of the priority defense programs for the U.S. The F-35 program was initiated in the early 1990s to provide the premier strike fighter aircraft to the Air Force, Marine Corps, and Navy, as well as international partners for the next several decades. Currently, the Air Force is scheduled to acquire and field over 1,700 F-35As over the next several decades; this basing action is only a part of the Air Force's program to assure availability of combat-ready pilots and maintenance personnel in the most advanced fighter aircraft in the world. This Environmental Impact Statement focuses on the analysis of alternative locations for and the Records of Decision for the Air Force's initial operational wing locations.												
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Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Susan Parente
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:01 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Williston

Hello,

I am a recent new resident from Cleveland, OH. My husband came up to work in Burlington in April and recently secured us a house in Williston, near his place of employment. I arrived midnight a week ago today.

We are in a house rental that was supposed to culminate in a closing no later than 8/15/13. My first day in this house I was overwhelmed with air traffic. Not just commercial flights but also, the very unexpected Air Guard drills.

The second day, I was so unnerved, I called the Operations Manager at Burlington Airport to ask exactly where I was in relation to the airport.

I was told this house is "a few blocks away" from the main runways 15/33!

The Sellers / Sellers Agents didn't disclose the material facts about the proximity to the runways and/or that the Air Nat'l Guard used the same runways for their training drills twice a day.

Had the sellers or the agent told us this, we would NOT have agreed to purchase this house.

Now we are learning about local issues, seeing the radius maps for increased noise and lost property values.

We are being told we will be sued for Breach of Contract if we pull out now because of the undisclosed airport issue.

We are being advised to see a litigator (\$\$\$). we have been advised to leave the premises immediately.

We have a taken delivery of a Mayflower truck full of our house belongings from OH. We have 3 animals.

Although many states have precedent setting legal cases regarding Mandatory Disclosure of airports, runways and related noise, Burlington, VT does not have such a precedent set.

All this said, it's amazing to us that Winooski residents are so vocal and proactive about keeping these F-35's out yet Williston seems to have NO VOICE in this? We are dead south of the same runway and the same issue and clearly in the radius presented on the maps.

How can Williston developers and residents be looking the other way?

I write this to you on two levels...personal and the larger picture.

If theres an Attorney who is versed in these matters and wants to use our situation to explore the currently non-existent precedent that all air port proximity/noise factors MUST BE DISCLOSED , I would appreciate contact information.

I will certainly be back in touch to volunteer when I can get past this mess I've landed in and my crash course in local politics, afterburners, internal fuel vs. external, F-16's/F-35's, sound mitigation, litigation and the like.

I have landed right in the middle of controversy...no pun intended.

Thanks for your efforts.

Susan Parente

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Joanne Hunt
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:01 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Re: F-35

Dear Sir,

I am opposed to basing the F-35 in Burlington, VT.

As a nurse practitioner in Colchester, VT, many of my patients are from Winooski. I feel strongly that there would be deleterious health effects on the children of Winooski, South Burlington, Burlington and other local towns. I also believe it would have a negative impact on the housing prices and market for those living in these communities. It seems especially unfair as most of this housing is for low and middle income people. Why should they feel this negative effect when they are already being burdened in this economic downturn?

I believe there would be overall negative environmental effects. I believe that the cost is way too high and it is already way over budget. I believe that putting more money into a questionable military project is not a good use of taxpayer dollars.

Finally I believe that our local government and federal government officials are not listening to the people. People across all walks of life oppose this project. Our officials are not listening nor have they been willing to meet with those of us who oppose the project.

Please do not base this project in Burlington, VT.

Thank you.

Joanne Hunt, APRN

Mr. Nicholas Germanos
HQ ACC/A7PS
1129 Andrews Street, Suite 337
Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

19 June 2013

Dear Mr. Germanos,

This letter is written in support of basing F-35s at the Vermont Air National Guard (VTANG) in So. Burlington, Vermont. The Vermont Air National Guard has been a proud part of our Vermont heritage since 1946 and plays a significant role as a major employer and for providing economic stimulus to Northwestern Vermont.

These benefits include:

- Air National Guard employees – 400 full-time & 700 part-time
- Payroll - **\$53M annually**

In addition to economic benefits, Air Guard members play a very positive role in the region with their contributions to local schools, local boards and volunteer organizations that are a great part of the fabric of our Vermont communities.

The Vermont Air National Guard enjoys a strong and wonderful reputation with Vermonters for being essential first responders when natural disasters strike at home. A prime example of this is when Hurricane Irene hit Vermont last year; the Vermont Air National Guard was quickly on the scene in many Vermont Towns with rescue equipment, medical supplies and much needed manpower.

We strongly support the Vermont Air National Guard and welcome the F-35s to Vermont to continue the very proud tradition that the Air Guard began in 1946. We look forward to continuing this tradition for many decades to come.

Best Regards,

Name: Jeffrey L Brooks

July 8, 2013

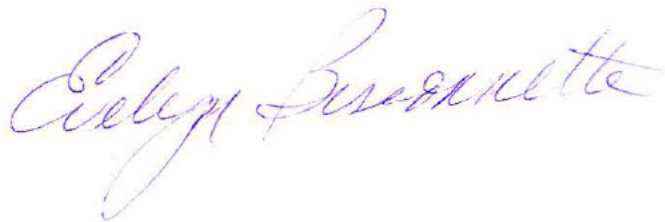
Mr Nicholas Germanos
HQ ACC/A7PS
129 Andrews St Suite 337
Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

Dear Mr Germanos,

I am a Vermonter who supports the basing of the F-35 in Vermont. I have lived here for 30 years and am very proud of VTANG. We have lived in Burlington and also Winooski and the level of noise or disruption did not impact our lives unduly. To know that we have these dedicated and accomplished men and woman in our area, gives me a lot of pride and peace of mind. VTANG was able to deploy very quickly during the 911 tragedy, I believe this base and its mission are a benefit to VT and to the US due to its strategic location. I think the benefits of the F-35 being based at VTANG far out way any perceived environmental burden.

Thank you for your support.

Evelyn Bissonnette



Sally and David Conrad

July 8, 2013

Mr. Nicholas Germanos

HQ ACC/A7PS

129 Andrews Street, Suite 332

Langley AFB, VA

23665-2769

Dear Mr. Germanos,

We are an older couple who have lived in the vicinity of South Burlington for 43 years. Our family has grown and flown the nest, but remains very connected to this part of Vermont largely through a profound sense of place.

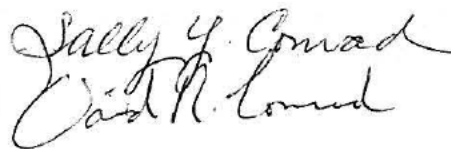
We are deeply opposed to basing F-35 bombers at the Burlington/South Burlington National Air Guard Base. Our opposition stems from the fact that by the Air Force's own environmental impact study, more than 6000 people would feel the impact of damaging high noise levels from the aircrafts. The people so affected live and/or go to school in a large area around the Air Guard Base. These are neighborhoods composed of many modest homes and affordable rental units. Many, many studies through the years have documented that Chittenden County and especially the greater Burlington area have very few affordably priced homes or rental units. In fact affordable housing of all types are in extremely short supply. To destroy any amount of existing housing in this income category is immoral from our point of view. We cannot condone the displacement of low and modest income families from their homes and children from their neighborhood school to accommodate the F-35 bomber.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our opinion.

Sincerely,

Sally Y. Conrad

David R. Conrad

Handwritten signatures of Sally Y. Conrad and David R. Conrad. The signature of Sally Y. Conrad is written in a cursive script, and the signature of David R. Conrad is written in a similar cursive script below it.

M. Smith

7/10/13

ATTN: Mr. Nicholas Germanos
HQ ACC/A7PS
129 Andrews St. Suite 337
Langley AFB, VA
2366-9900

Dear Sir:

I do not support basing the F35 jets in
S. Burlington, VT, for the following reasons:

1. Too much noise - causing stress & health issues
2. Too many homes will become uninhabitable due to noise.
3. Potential for disaster with loss of life if the plane malfunctions. (No visibility from cockpit!)
4. Air pollution.
5. Poor maneuverability of the plane.

Please do not select Vermont as the base
for this plane.

Sincerely,
Margaret S. Smith

Frank B. Haddleton
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 64649
Burlington, VT 05406

(802) 363-9352
Fax: (802) 652-4801

Admitted in Vermont and Massachusetts

July 12, 2013

By U.S. Mail and by email

Mr. Nicholas Germanos
HQ ACC/A7PS
129 Andrews Street, Suite 337
Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

Governor Peter Shumlin
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, VT 05609

Ms. Kathleen Ferguson
Deputy Asst Secretary of the Air Force
For Installations SAF-IEI
1665 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1665

Mayor Miro Weinberger
149 Church Street
Burlington, VT 05401

Re: No F-35's in Burlington, Vermont

Dear Mr. Germanos, Ms. Ferguson, Governor Shumlin, and Mayor Weinberger:

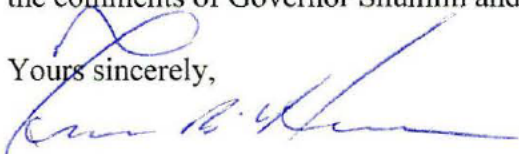
Anybody who still believes that the basing of the F-35A at the Burlington airport is justifiable or reasonable has not reviewed the current medical literature about the clear connection between noise pollution and very serious, chronic health conditions, including cardiovascular disease. The impact on children is even greater, affecting their cognitive development and scholastic performance at a very critical point in their lives. I enclose, for your review, a short introduction to some of this material.

<http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2013/06/05/air-noise-pollution.aspx>

Any individual involved in the F-35A deployment decision-making process has an obligation to review the current medical literature and understand that these jets absolutely cannot be based in an area where there are significant numbers of residences or schools. The mandate of our government in general, and of the Air Force in particular, is to promote the health and safety of U.S. citizens. Basing the F-35A in Burlington will have a dramatic, negative impact on the health and safety of Burlington area residents.

The local opposition to the basing of the F-35A is enormous. The noise from the F-16s is already unacceptable. Unfortunately, most people have concluded, based upon the comments of Governor Shumlin and others, that their opinions don't matter.

Yours sincerely,



Frank B. Haddleton
fbh:ms / enclosure



Call Toll Free: 877-985-2695

Both Air And Noise Pollution Increase Cardiovascular Risk

June 05, 2013 | 18,660 views

By Dr. Mercola

Air pollution and noise pollution often go hand-in-hand, as some of the most heavily air-polluted areas are also those near loud busy roadways and airports.

Because of this connection, some have tried to dismiss studies linking air pollution to increased heart risks, blaming it on the noise in the area instead – and vice versa.

Now new research has settled this point of contention, as it looked at air pollution and noise pollution simultaneously... and found that each form of pollution was *independently* associated with heart risks, specifically subclinical atherosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries.

Air Pollution and Noise Pollution: A Double Whammy to Your Heart

If you live near a busy highway, you're likely being simultaneously exposed to two major pollution sources that can harm your heart: air pollution *and* noise pollution from the traffic.

In a German study of more than 4,200 people, researchers used a measure of arterial hardening known as "thoracic aortic calcification" (TAC) to estimate heart risks. Exposure to fine particle air pollution increased TAC scores by nearly 20 percent while exposure to noise pollution increased TAC by about 8 percent.¹

This was *after* controlling for other variables that may influence heart health, such as age, gender, smoking, physical activity, alcohol use and more. What this means is that people living in high-risk areas need to account for both types of pollution to protect their heart health. As researchers noted:²

"... both exposures seem to be important and both must be considered on a population level, rather than focusing on just one hazard."

Air Pollution Is Strongly Tied to Heart Risks

You may think air pollution mostly impacts your lungs, but it actually has a serious impact on your heart, as well. In fact, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that 5 percent or more of heart disease deaths may be related to air pollution exposure.³

For starters, it's known that exposure to one type of air pollution, ozone, may trigger inflammation of your vascular system, increasing risk factors associated with heart disease.

Ozone exposure has also been linked to a change in heart rate variability and a reduction in the ability of blood clots to dissolve, both of which can lead to heart problems.⁴

Additional research published in the journal *PLoS Medicine*⁵, showed that, on average, the thickness of the carotid artery increased by 0.014 millimeters per year after other risk factors such as smoking were accounted for.

Those who had higher levels of exposure to fine particulate air pollution experienced thickening of the inner two layers of the carotid artery (which supplies blood to your head) quicker than those exposed to lower levels of pollution. According to the authors:

Story at-a-glance

If you live near a busy highway, you're likely being simultaneously exposed to two major pollution sources that can harm your heart: air pollution and noise pollution from the traffic

Exposure to fine particle air pollution increased TAC scores (a measure of arterial hardening) by nearly 20 percent while exposure to noise pollution increased TAC by about 8 percent, according to new research

Both fine particle matter air pollution and noise pollution are believed to increase your cardiovascular disease risk through similar biologic pathways, including by causing an imbalance in your autonomic nervous system (ANS)

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"Linking these findings with other results from the same population suggests that persons living in a more polluted part of town may have a 2 percent higher risk of stroke as compared to people in a less polluted part of the same metropolitan area."

For people with existing heart conditions the risk may be even steeper, with one study showing that breathing exhaust fumes from heavy traffic may trigger a heart attack among this population – a risk that continues for up to six hours afterward as well.⁶ Simply being in heavy traffic has even been found to triple the risk of suffering from a heart attack!⁷

Interestingly, both fine particle matter air pollution and noise pollution are believed to increase your cardiovascular disease risk through similar biologic pathways, including by causing an imbalance in your autonomic nervous system (ANS). Your ANS is intricately involved in regulating biological functions such as blood pressure, blood sugar levels, clotting and viscosity.

How Does Noise Pollution Harm Your Heart?

According to research published in *Environmental Health Perspectives*, long-term exposure to traffic noise may account for approximately 3 percent of coronary heart disease deaths (or about 210,000 deaths) in Europe each year.⁸ But how exactly does noise harm your heart?

One of the key ways is by elevating stress hormones such as cortisol, adrenaline, and noradrenaline, which, over time, can lead to high blood pressure, stroke and heart failure. One review of research showed that "arousal associated with nighttime noise exposure increased blood and saliva concentrations of these hormones even during sleep."⁹ Deepak Prasher, a professor of audiology at University College in London and a member of the WHO Noise Environmental Burden on Disease working group, states:¹⁰

"Many people become habituated to noise over time... The biological effects are imperceptible, so that even as you become accustomed to the noise, adverse physiological changes are nevertheless taking place, with potentially serious consequences to human health... Taken together, recent epidemiologic data show us that noise is a major stressor that can influence health through the endocrine, immune, and cardiovascular systems."

The impact can be significant. Among women who judge themselves to be sensitive to noise, chronic noise exposure increased the risk of cardiovascular mortality by 80 percent!¹¹ Chronic noise exposure also leads to health risks beyond your heart, such as hearing loss, diminished productivity, sleep disruption, impaired learning and more. Air pollution similarly causes wide-reaching risks to health...

Air Pollution Also Tied to Hyperactivity in Kids

In related news, a study found that children exposed to traffic-related air pollution before their first birthday had a higher risk of hyperactivity at the age of 7.¹² The research suggests that air pollution may be having a negative impact on brain development, possibly by causing blood vessels to constrict or causing toxic buildup in the brain.

Noise pollution has also been tied to risks specifically in children, including an impairment in reading comprehension and long-term memory among those exposed to chronic aircraft noise.¹³ Like adults, children living near heavy traffic areas may be at significant risks of health issues from exposure to both noise *and* air pollution simultaneously.

Air Pollution: What Can You Do to Lower Your Risks?

If you happen to live in a heavily polluted area, the *best* option is to move, but I realize that isn't always a practical option. For most people, it's better to focus your attention on your immediate environment, which you have more, if not full, control over. The most effective way to improve your indoor air quality, for instance, is to control or eliminate as many sources of pollution as you can first, before using any type of air purifier.

This includes accounting for molds, tobacco smoke, volatile organic compounds from paints, aerosol sprays and household cleaners, pesticides, phthalates from vinyl flooring and personal care products, pollutants from pressure-treated wood products, radon gas and more (see tips below).

The next step to take is free—open some windows. Of course, this can only take you so far, but it's an important and simple step. Next, since it is impossible to eliminate ALL air contaminants, one of the best things you can do is incorporate a high-quality air purifier. My recommendations for air purifiers have changed over the years, along with the changing technologies and newly emerging research. There are so many varieties of contaminants generated by today's toxic world that air purification manufacturers are in a constant race to keep up with them, so it pays to do your homework.

At present, and after much careful review and study, I believe air purifiers using Photo Catalytic Oxidation (PCO) seem to be the best technology available. Aside from using an air purification system, there are a number of other steps you can take to take charge of your air quality and greatly reduce the amount of air pollutants generated in your home:

- Vacuum your floors regularly using a HEPA filter vacuum cleaner or, even better, a central vacuum cleaner that can be retrofitted to your existing house if you don't currently have one. Standard bag or bagless vacuum cleaners are another primary contributor to poor indoor air quality. A regular vacuum cleaner typically has about a 20-micron tolerance. Although that's tiny, far more microscopic particles flow *right through* the vacuum cleaner than it actually picks up! Beware of cheaper knock-offs that profess to have "HEPA-like" filters—get the real deal.
- Increase ventilation by opening a few windows every day for 5 to 10 minutes, preferably on opposite sides of the house. (Although outdoor air quality may be poor, stale indoor air is typically even worse by a wide margin.)
- Get some houseplants. Even NASA has found that plants markedly improve the air! For tips and guidelines, see my previous article [The 10 Best Pollution-Busting Houseplants](#).
- Take your shoes off as soon as you enter the house, and leave them by the door to prevent tracking in of toxic particles.
- Discourage or even better, forbid, tobacco smoking in or around your home.
- Switch to non-toxic cleaning products (such as baking soda, hydrogen peroxide and vinegar) and safer personal care products. Avoid aerosols. Look for VOC-free cleaners. Avoid commercial air fresheners and scented candles, which can out gas literally thousands of different chemicals into your breathing space.
- Avoid powders. Talcum and other personal care powders can be problematic as they float and linger in the air after each use. Many powders are allergens due to their tiny size, and can cause respiratory problems
- Don't hang dry-cleaned clothing in your closet immediately. Hang them outside for a day or two. Better yet, see if there's an eco-friendly dry cleaner in your city that uses some of the newer dry cleaning technologies, such as liquid CO₂.
- Upgrade your furnace filters. Today, there are more elaborate filters that trap more of the particulates. Have your furnace and air conditioning ductwork and chimney cleaned regularly.
- Avoid storing paints, adhesives, solvents, and other harsh chemicals in your house or in an attached garage.
- Avoid using nonstick cookware, which can release toxins into the air when heated.
- Ensure your combustion appliances are properly vented.
- Make sure your house has proper drainage and its foundation is sealed properly to avoid mold formation. For more information about the health dangers of mold and how to address it, please see [this previous article](#).
- The same principles apply to ventilation inside your car—especially if your car is new—and chemicals from plastics, solvents, carpet and audio equipment add to the toxic mix in your car's cabin. That "new car smell" can contain up to 35 times the health limit for VOCs, "making its enjoyment akin to glue-sniffing."¹⁴

Tips for Eliminating Noise Pollution Using... Noise

We've covered air pollution, but what can you do about *noise* pollution in your home to protect your heart and overall health? If you live in a very noisy area, such as near a highway or airport, you may want to consider moving.

If that is not an option, consider adding acoustical tile to your ceiling and walls to buffer the noise. At the very least, you can sound-treat your home by adding heavy curtains to your windows, rugs to your floors and sealing air leaks. If noise is only an issue occasionally, sound-blocking headphones can eliminate such disturbances.

If noise is an issue during the night, you may want to consider adding *pink noise* to your bedroom. Pink noise is steady with a consistent frequency, like the sound of wind or constant rain. Research shows that steady pink noise can help slow down and regulate your brainwaves for more stable sleep and improved sleep quality.¹⁵ While pink noise CDs are available, you can also simply turn on a fan in your bedroom to block out noise disturbances and instead take advantage of this beneficial type of pink noise.

[+] Sources and References

[+] Comments (30)

18 June 2013

Tracy Stout

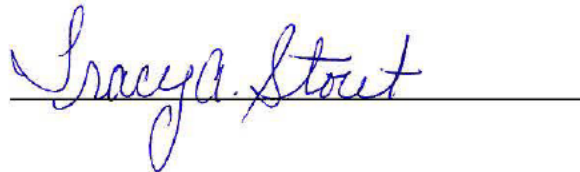
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Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

Mr. Germanos,

It is my distinct pleasure to write you in avid support of the Vermont Air National Guards selection as a "preferred alternative" location for the F-35 Lightning II. I am a proud American citizen and supporter of the service that the men and women of the Guard provide for our nation, state and community. The Vermont Air National Guard has been a neighbor for 66 years and contributes significantly to the economic vitality and emergency response capability of our state. I firmly believe that the dedicated and patriotic people of the state of Vermont and it's surrounding states are truly in a unique position to contribute to the needs of the nation and I look forward to the outcome of the Enviromental Impact Statement and subsequent Record of Decision.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to submit this statement.
Proud current member of the Vermont Air Guard for the past 32 years!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tracy A. Stout", is written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Nicholas Germanos
HQ ACC/A7PS
1129 Andrews Street, Suite 337
Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

6/18/2013

Dear Mr. Germanos,

This letter is written in support of basing F-35s at the Vermont Air National Guard (VTANG) in So. Burlington, Vermont. The Vermont Air National Guard has been a proud part of our Vermont heritage since 1946 and plays a significant role as a major employer and for providing economic stimulus to Northwestern Vermont.

These benefits include:

- Air National Guard employees – 400 full-time & 700 part-time
- Payroll - **\$53M annually**

In addition to economic benefits, Air Guard members play a very positive role in the region with their contributions to local schools, local boards and volunteer organizations that are a great part of the fabric of our Vermont communities.

The Vermont Air National Guard enjoys a strong and wonderful reputation with Vermonters for being essential first responders when natural disasters strike at home. A prime example of this is when Hurricane Irene hit Vermont last year; the Vermont Air National Guard was quickly on the scene in many Vermont Towns with rescue equipment, medical supplies and much needed manpower.

We strongly support the Vermont Air National Guard and welcome the F-35s to Vermont to continue the very proud tradition that the Air Guard began in 1946. We look forward to continuing this tradition for many decades to come.

Best Regards,

Name: Erica Beach

Mr. Nicholas Germanos
HQ ACC/A7PS
1129 Andrews Street, Suite 337
Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

6/14/2013

Dear Mr. Germanos,

This letter is written in support of basing F-35s at the Vermont Air National Guard (VTANG) in So. Burlington, Vermont. The Vermont Air National Guard has been a proud part of our Vermont heritage since 1946 and plays a significant role as a major employer and for providing economic stimulus to Northwestern Vermont.

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We strongly support the Vermont Air National Guard and welcome the F-35s to Vermont to continue the very proud tradition that the Air Guard began in 1946. We look forward to continuing this tradition for many decades to come.

Best Regards,

Clayton S. Wells

May 14, 2013

Clayton S. Wells

Mr. Nick Germanos, HQ ACC/A7PS
129 Andrews St., Suite 337
Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

Mr. Germanos,

It is my distinct pleasure to write you in avid support of the Vermont Air National Guards selection as a "preferred alternative" location for the F-35 Lightning II. I am a proud American citizen and supporter of the service that the men and women of the Guard provide for our nation, state and community. The Vermont Air National Guard has been a neighbor for 66 years and contributes significantly to the economic vitality and emergency response capability of our state. I firmly believe that the dedicated and patriotic people of the state of Vermont and it's surrounding states are truly in a unique position to contribute to the needs of the nation and I look forward to the outcome of the Enviromental Impact Statement and subsequent Record of Decision.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to submit this statement.

Respectfully,

Mr. Nicholas Germanos

F-35A Operational Basing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Project Manager

HQ ACC/A7PS, 129 Andrews Street, Suite 337

Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

I am writing to you to express my deep concerns regarding the potential basing of the F-35A at the Burlington Air Guard Station in Vermont. I believe that the purported benefits of the F35A being based here have been exaggerated, while the problems it will bring have been underestimated and in some cases, ignored altogether.

i believe the negative impact on the housing values, businesses; employment and economies of the affected areas far outweigh the benefits of a handful of jobs. No-one will want to live or work in the affected areas.

Sincerely,

Michael Ficociello

With the environmental impact being worse on Burlington's population-dense community compared with the other base candidates, I question how we could possibly be considered a preferred site.

I believe the purported benefits of the F35A being based here have been exaggerated, while the problems it will bring have been underestimated if not, in some cases, ignored altogether.

If these warplanes are destined to be built, PLEASE base them where they'll have the least collateral damage –and not in Vermont's most populated urban area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Oats
Burlington, Vermont

****It's my understanding that far more expensive re-works are having to be done on this aircraft than most previous warplanes – i.e., pilots cannot see behind them nor via cockpit screens, positioning/repositioning area for bombs resulting in a wider-heavier-less fuel efficient-less nimble aircraft. A growing number of pilots liken it to some of the other ill-designed warplanes, of which 20 are mentioned in this one article alone.**

<http://armedforcesmuseum.com/top-ten-worst-aircraft-of-wwii/>

My farmgirl upbringing taught me many wise truisms, including this one:

"When you find yourself in a hole, stop digging."

It's never too late to stop throwing money at a misguided project – especially one that will impact so many lives, military and civilian.



July 9, 2013

Mr. Nicholas Germanos
HQ ACC/A7PS
129 Andrews St.
Suite 332
Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

RE: Official Position of the City Council of South Burlington, Vermont
Regarding the Initial Bed-Down of the F-35 at Burlington, Vermont.

Dear Mr. Germanos:

Please be advised that on Monday, July 8, 2013 the City Council of South Burlington, Vermont voted to support the proposed initial bed-down of the F-35 in our community. The language of the motion as passed is as follows and its expression of the City Council position is self-evident;

That the City Council of South Burlington support the bed-down of the F-35 at the Burlington, Vermont Air Guard Station and notify the Air Force of this support.

The City Council of South Burlington, Vermont respectfully requests that the Air Force consider our position in support of the bed-down as you reach your decision on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Pam Mackenzie
Chair
South Burlington City Council

July 6, 2013

Mr. Nicholas Germanos
HQ ACC/A7PS
129 Andrews St., Suite 337
Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

Dear Mr. Germanos:

I am writing you to show my support for basing the F-35 at the Burlington International Airport and choosing the Vermont Air National Guard as the preferred unit for flying the aircraft.

I am a Vermonter who is in support of the basing of the F-35 in Vermont. It is my understanding from information I know regarding the EIS is that Vermont will not see undue environmental burden and is a preferred site for the basing of the F-35.

My understanding, according to Table BR3.2.9, is that the F-35 will create sound similar and in many areas QUIETER than the F-16. I understand IAW table BR3.1-1 that there will be 2613 fewer operations per year. I recognize that the proposed 65 DNL line in the EIS depicts a change, but in accordance page 2-43 understand that follow up on noise evaluations will be accomplished and will include operational profiles and noise mitigation procedures. I further understand IAW page C-20 "there is no scientific basis for a claim that potential health effect exist for aircraft time-average sound levels below 75db."

I also read in the Burlington Free Press of June 26, 2013 (page 1B) that dissenters ran a decibel check in downtown Burlington, claiming the noise simulated an F-35. Yet, the sound was not heard at the Burlington Free Press office, with windows open, a mere 100 yards away.

I believe the F-35 continues a proud 67 year tradition of the Vermont Air National Guard's (VTANG) service to Vermont, and I am proud to have served with them for almost 30 years. I believe the mission change is an economic benefit to the United States, the state of Vermont and the local economy. I also look to the success and proud execution of the Vermont Air National Guard and their pilots of F-16s who were the first responders to New York City on September 11, 2001. They are good neighbors, know their mission and deserve the recognition that their selection for the F-35 would bring.

I support the conclusion that Vermont is a key strategic location (again, my reference to New York City) for the basing of the F-35 and believe that the EIS does not depict undue impact.

Sincerely,

Roger Drouse. COL, Retired, VTANG

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Root, Christina
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:01 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F-35 Fighter Jets in Burlington

Dear Mr. Germanos,

I am writing to express my opposition to placing the F-35 Fighter Jets in Burlington. The noise of these planes would have a terrible impact on the neighborhoods the planes would fly over, making many of the homes uninhabitable. Even in the housing stock supposedly less affected, the noise would be harmful to residents, especially children.

Please do not let them be based here.

Yours,

Christina Root

Burlington Resident

Saint Michael's College Employee

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Joanne Hunt
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:03 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: re: f-35

Dear, Sir,

"I am writing to request a brief extension of the Public Comment period, based upon the fact that at least 100 pages of important information were not released until nearly 3 weeks after the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement was released. Given that this section included substantive questions that people were asking, and the important information given by the Air Force in response to those questions, we believe that it is only reasonable to offer people ample time to consider that information. Please extend the Public Comment period to offer the public 45 days starting from the date that the FULL Revised DEIS was released, rather than May 31st, the date on which the incomplete Revised DEIS was released.] As you know, there is great controversy over this basing in our community. It is essential that Vermont citizens be given the most complete opportunity to read, understand, and respond to the information being released by the Air Force. It's crucial that the process by which this decision is made be free of further error."

Joanne Hunt

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Loretta Dow Marriott
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:13 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: I oppose F-35s for BTV

Mr. Germanos,

I oppose the basing of F-35s at BTV because it will negatively effect the quality of life, especially the outdoor life we love and that draws tourists to our most liveable area.

Loretta Marriott

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From:
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:15 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: We wholeheartedly support the F-35 in VT!

We live in Colchester, VT, just about one mile from the Winooski line. The flight path is literally just above our house. We have commercial planes as well as the F16 flying directly above us. The momentary inconvenience, say of having to tell someone on the phone to wait just a second, pales in comparison to the pride and security we feel when we see those planes overhead. I believe much, if not most, of the opposition, is based on anti-military and anti-war sentiment, and the noise fears are exaggerated.

Regards,

Leslie and Jim Mooney

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Loretta Dow Marriott
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:17 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: please extend the comment period

Mr. Germanos,

Please extend the Public Comment period to offer the public 45 days starting from the date that the FULL Revised DEIS was released.]

Thank you,
Loretta Marriott

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: David Conrad
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:18 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Oppose basing of F-35A in Burlington

Dear Mr. Germanos,

I totally oppose basing F-35A's in Burlington/South Burlington, Vermont. The tremendous noise generated by these planes would adversely affect thousands of people. Many hundreds of homes would need to be condemned, according to the Air Force's own Environmental Impact Statement.

I am especially concerned about the negative impact on children of F-35 basing. This new fighter-bomber should never be based in a highly populated area like greater Burlington.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
David R. Conrad

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Rachel Kristine Sohrabi
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:20 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Public Comment: F35 Basing in Burlington, VT

Mr. Germanos,

I am writing to express my opposition to the basing of the F35 fighter jet in Burlington, Vermont and to request a delay in the public comment period timeline. As a recent University of Vermont graduate who has lived directly behind Chamberlin Elementary School in South Burlington for over fourteen years, I am concerned about potential safety and health issues associated with the plane, with special consideration given to noise pollution and the resulting drop in property values.

Contrary to the impression that those who support the basing may have given, the vast majority of us who will be DIRECTLY affected by this issue are in opposition. Basing the plane here would disproportionately affect the lives of roughly 8,000 people, the majority of which are lower-income and/or minorities. Our state and local representatives have failed us by placing political and financial gain over the health and well-being of the state's most vulnerable citizens; by ignoring our voices, they have turned this into a classic case of social injustice. There are, however, other bases that would be much better suited to this aircraft, with fewer residential casualties and people who actually want them. I also would like to request a brief extension of the public comment period to 45 days from the release of the FULL Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement, rather than May 31st, the date on which the incomplete Revised DEIS - sans over 100 pages of important information - was released.

I appreciate the opportunity to voice my opinion on this matter and I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel Sohrabi

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Edward Lincoln
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:20 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: f 35

Dear Mr. Germanos, please remove Burlington Vermont from the list of preferred sites for basing your new fighter.

My house and 10,000 residents are in the Northern approach and flight path therefore subject to excessive noise and potential crash sites.

The wikipedia list of military crashes indicates newer plans should not be in populated areas.

Edward Lincoln

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: alansuki
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:21 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F 35 in Vermont

Sir: I am forwarding this message because I feel strongly that the Air Force has not been fully revealing about its process to the citizens of Vermont. Please listen closely to our voices. The message I am forwarding is as follows:

"I am writing to request a brief extension of the Public Comment period, based upon the fact that at least 100 pages of important information were not released until nearly 3 weeks after the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement was released. Given that this section included substantive questions that people were asking, and the important information given by the Air Force in response to those questions, we believe that it is only reasonable to offer people ample time to consider that information. Please extend the Public Comment period to offer the public 45 days starting from the date that the FULL Revised DEIS was released, rather than May 31st, the date on which the incomplete Revised DEIS was released. As you know, there is great controversy over this basing in our community. It is essential that Vermont citizens be given the most complete opportunity to read, understand, and respond to the information being released by the Air Force. It's crucial that the process by which this decision is made be free of further error."

Respectfully submitted, Cynthia Rubin

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From:
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:22 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Vermont Basing of the F35 - NO

Mr. Germanos,

As an Army veteran with 13 years (3 active 10 reserve/NG) of service, I am opposed to basing the F35 at the Burlington International Airport.

My main issue for saying no is the harmful noise the F35 produces that will affect, by my best guess from the provided government information, approximately 2000 low to moderate income households and roughly 3000 people. As a father of young children (4 and 12) I am very concerned with their health and do not want their cognitive development compromised by the F35 noises associated with typical operations. Additionally, Chittenden county is a densely populated area and those families who will need to relocate will not easily be able to find a similar home in Chittenden county. You will be forcibly moving ~2000 households out of Chittenden county. I do not think that price is worth the 200+ jobs being associated with the F35 mission.

I find it embarrassing to read of the long list of inaccuracies, misrepresentation of facts, or omission of pertinent information to the greater Burlington area residence by the US Air force. Every time I see another misrepresentation in the paper, I am disappointed in the leadership of this project and cannot help but feel there is something being hidden from the public. Let us have true transparency and honesty.

I do not believe the F35 should be based at the Burlington Vermont International Airport.

Thank you,

David S. Hazel

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Walter Hildebrandt
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:27 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Please extend the Public Comment period on the F35]

The more I look at the available information (the more I learn) the more important I believe it is to make the right decision for all parties involved.

It is particularly important to the Air Force. The small extension of time is peanuts compared to the planned use time of the F35 around the world.

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From:
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:31 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: VT video: People Before Planes

Mr Germanos:

<http://vimeo.com/m/69616985>

This video by Vermont Workers Ctr is being widely distributed. It hi-lights the conflict of interest and alleged corruption between Senator Leahy's CousininLaw Ernie Pomerleau, a commercial realtor, who is investing large sums of money with his cronies to buy Seats on South Burlington City Council to overturn opposition descision, pay for ads in newspapers saying 65 dnl zone won't effect real estate value, pre-printed COMMENT cards with false info to send to Air Force should be counted as 1 comment!!! No thought or brains, just like signing a petition, 1 comment

<https://vimeo.com/69616985>

Jean Saysani

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Susan Parente
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:32 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: PS to earlier email

FYI- want to add that....

My brother was a pilot who flew helicopters in VietNam.

My nephew is a pilot.

We lived a 1/2 mile from Cleveland Clinic and with Life Flight Helicopters 24/7.

We are not "overly sensitive" out of towners, but very normal, typical reasonable people.

We have been duped into a contract to purchase a home, in a location a few blocks from runway 15/33, surrounded by controversy.

Sellers have lived here over 25 yrs.

They probably didn't notice the jets.

And in the larger picture...what are area residents doing and can there be a personal or a class action suit mounted regarding airport disclosures, noise, etc.?

Thanks Again,
Susan

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Delaney, Patricia L
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:35 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: I oppose the basing of the F-35s in Burlington, VT

Dear Mr. Germanos,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed basing of F-35s in the Burlington, VT area. I am opposed for many reasons, including the likely negative health and socioeconomic impacts on the communities that live near the Burlington airport.

I am baffled as to why the Air Force would even consider such a densely populated area for the basing of these very loud jets.

I am a strong supporter of our military and the Air National Guard in Vermont. I am grateful for the service of our military families and in no way see my opposition to the F-35s as contradicting my respect and admiration for the military.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Delaney, Ph.D.

Mr. Nicholas Germanos

HQ ACC/A7PS

129 Andrews Street, Suite 332

Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

or email him at: nicholas.germanos@langley.af.mil <<mailto:nicholas.germanos@langley.af.mil>>

Patricia L. Delaney, Ph.D.

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Patrick Volz
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:37 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Burlington_F35s_PVolz

Patrick J Volz

Mr. Nicholas Germanos
nicholas.germanos@langley.af.mil

7/14/2013

Dear Mr. Nicholas Germanos,

The purpose of this letter is to urge you to reconsider the Air Forces plan to base its F-35A planes here in Burlington Vermont. When one speaks of living in Vermont often what comes up is 'quality of life'. We have a unique and beautiful state and many of us believe that basing these jets here would certainly damage it. The city of Winooski, the city which would most be effected by the terribly loud noise has publicly come out as a community against the plan. Many doctors have been consulted on this subject as part of an impact study. According to these health experts the sound levels from the F-35As would provide a negative impact to the citizens of the greater Chittenden County.

We look to tourism for a large contribution to the financial health our beautiful state. I moved to Vermont from Connecticut about thirteen years ago at first looking to live closer to some great skiing. After a short time living here I quickly understood how different life is in the north country. It is evident that Vermonters share a real love of our state. We are also a state which appreciates our military. This support is partly measurable by the large numbers of our brave men and women who have given their lives to our nation in the name of freedom.

Numerous rallies that Save Our Skies has organized further demonstrate a large and growing opposition to the F-35 basing. Despite our protests many of Vermont's high ranking politicians, like Patrick Leahy, have come out in support of the basing under the suspicion of questionable process methods. Our politicians whom are in support of this proposal I feel don't have the best interest of its citizens in mind and be sure they will not be earning my support on election day. Surely there must be a more appropriate location for the basing of these terribly loud jets other than a densely populated area such as Burlington Vermont. The impact due to excessive noise from the F-35s, besides the health issues, has the potential to negatively affect thousands of homes and land values over a large area. We have a great community, I ask that you not introduce the noise pollution that these jets will create.

Sincerely,
Patrick J Volz

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From:
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:38 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F--35 basing in Burlington, Vermont

Nicholas Germanos,

I am opposed to basing the F-35 in Burlington. I live near the airport and the noise from the current F-16s at takeoff stops life in its tracks for nearly a minute. Please place these loud planes away from densely populated cities like Burlington.

Thank you.

James F. Wanner
Burlington, Vermont

July 6, 2013

Mr. Nicholas Germanos
HQ ACC/A7PS
129 Andrews Street, Suite 332
Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

Dear Mr. Germanos:

I am opposed to the basing of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter at Burlington International Airport for the following reasons:

The failure and other flaws in the selection process since 2010. Those of us that have lived in Vermont for over 25 years are fully aware of the history of Senator Patrick Leahy, better known as "Paddy Warbucks" in a Sevens Day article some time ago. The Boston Globe article tells us that the lengthy base selection (scoring) process was deliberately "fudged" by military brass so that Leahy's home state would win.

Projected sound levels around the airport are so high with the F-35s that local officials predict several thousand nearby homes would fall within a zone designated "incompatible for residential use," negatively affecting the lives and property values of as many as 7,000 citizens.

150 affordable homes now vacant or demolished because of the F-16 noise.

Air Force says the F-35 is more than 4 times louder than the F-16.

Air Force says the F-35 will put 3,000 more affordable homes in the noise zone that the federal government says is "unsuitable for residential use."

F-35 puts thousand more homes in a very high-risk crash zone.

At over \$1 trillion, the F-35 is the most expensive weapon system in US military history. Vermonters are not interested in being a part of this boondoggle.

Initially the Air Force reported in its environmental-impact statement that the percentage of those letters opposed to the basing of the F-35 at BTV was somewhere around 35%, and about 65% in favor of basing. Then whoops, Air Force made a mistake, there were about 65% opposed to basing, and 35% in favor. Whoops that is a major error!!

From the beginning in 2010 this whole environmental impact statement has been a very flawed process, and it appears you are relying more on the opinion/political influence of Senator Patrick Leahy, the longest-serving member and a senior member of the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Defense, which exerts great control over how the Pentagon spends its budget. As cochairman of the National Guard Caucus in the Senate, Leahy also is a prominent booster of the Guard and looks out for the Guard's interests in Washington. All the rest of our Congressional Delegation just follows along because they know the importance of federal

defense dollars coming to the state of Vermont, including Senator Sanders (supposedly a 'socialist' liberal years ago), but now a drone following in the steps of Patrick Leahy.

These Vermont politicians, Leahy, Sanders, Welch, Governor Shumlin, Mayor Miro of the City of Burlington, and Ernie Pomerleau a local real estate developer who sits on the board of the Greater Burlington Industrial Corp. don't give a damn about local neighborhoods, 65 decibel excessive noise zones, quality of life in these towns/cities. They are looking at the federal dollars and perks (pork) coming into the state of Vermont and could care less about these densely populated communities being impacted by the noise, pollution, lower real estate values and on and on. Overall, this is a political game for all of them and they actually aren't listening to us out here screaming at them to do the **right thing**.

For our quality of life, for the peace and quiet of our future, for our environmental health, for our community please, please, please send the F-35 to some other state where they have open arms ready to accept this Joint Strike Fighter, because most Vermonters in this Burlington area don't want this behemoth to come to our state.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my opinion.

Sincerely,

Glenn Sousa

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Hollis St. Peter
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:39 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F-35's in Burlington Vermont

Dear Mr. Germanos

I have listened to both sides and read many of my neighbors' comments regarding the housing of F-35 warplanes with the VT National Guard (VTANG). With the deadline looming, I needed to write you with my concerns.

I am opposed to the basing of F-35's in Burlington first and foremost, because of my children. Health research indicates that prolonged exposure to loud noises (even in short bursts) leads to cognitive and hearing impairment, decreased learning, increased stress as well as other health problems. Our 8, 7, and 4 year olds also attend school in Winooski. There will be no escape from the noise for them, and I fear for the effects. Secondly, I oppose the basing because of the real estate research indicating that 80% of homes in city of Winooski will lose value as they will be deemed "not compatible with residential use" because of the noise caused by F-35 aircraft. This is unacceptable. Understanding that none of the other 5 basing locations impact residents because they are remote locations makes me wonder why we are even still having this conversation. There are other areas that would welcome the F-35's - their rural location would not impact residents in thriving communities like ours. Our community, on the other hand, will lose much. Finally, the revised draft Environmental Impact Statement very clearly states that the economic gain from the basing will be small to non-existent, and that the mission of the Guard will continue even if we do not get the planes.

I certainly hold nothing against the VTANG, and am incredibly grateful to their service for our country. I do not wish to limit their capacity, I only want to insure the continued growth and capacity of our Winooski - my family and my neighbors - as well as the towns that surround us.

Sincerely yours,

Hollis St. Peter

July 8, 2013

Mr. Nicholas Germanos
HQ ACC / A7PS
129 Andrews Street
Suite 337
Langley AFT, VA 23665-9900

Dear Mr. Germanos-

I am writing because I oppose the F-35 coming to Vermont, and ask that it NOT be sent to Vermont.

The F-35 is not finalized and tested. It is far too expensive. I believe it should not be sent anywhere, but it especially should not be sent to Vermont.

The information in the Report on it shows that it will not fit into the Vermont location.

Please do not believe that everyone who sends in an F-35 supportive pre-printed postcard citing the amorphous ideal of 'jobs' truly understands the range of negative impacts the F-35 would have on our state and our country.

I say NO to the F-35.

Thank you.

Davis L. Dimock

7 July 2013

Mr. Nicholas Germanos, HQ ACC/A7PS
129 Andrews St., Suite 332
Langley AFB, VA 23665-2769

Dear Mr. Germanos,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the United States Air Force F-35A Operational Basing Environmental Impact Statement dated May 2013, regarding basing the F-35A at the Burlington Air Guard Station.

After reading the revised report, it is clear that this draft also contains substantive errors, similar or greater in magnitude than the errors in the March 2012 report, which caused the AF to re-write sections of the draft EIS. Additionally, there are new errors and omission in the revised report. The errors found relate to the analysis, methodologies and/or information, which is factually inaccurate, analytically inadequate, and that question scientific and technical conclusions.

The most egregious substantive error relates to the noise effects on the health of people, in particular, children. Just as the 2012 draft EIS used 12-year old census data and thus underestimated the impact on the population by over a thousand people, this revised draft also uses outdated studies. The most recent study is 11 years old, but many of the other studies cited are much older (16, 18 and 23 years) and are no longer considered valid. Well over a hundred more recent studies show negative health effects from noise, in particular, aircraft noise. And there is overwhelming evidence from over 20 studies that noise impairs the cognitive development of children. More time needs to be devoted to reviewing these studies. NOTE: the revised report spends 19 ½ pages discussing the noise effects on animals; and spends only 2 ¾ pages discussing the noise effects on children.

1. The revised report incorrectly states on pages C-27 and NS-30, "In summary, there is no scientific basis for a claim that potential health effects exist for aircraft time average sound levels below 75 dB." According to the revised report, the AF conclusion comes from outdated and invalid studies from the 1990s.
2. The revised report incorrectly states on page C-28 "...that there has not been a tremendous amount of research in the area of aircraft noise effects on children."
- The AF conclusion is in direct contradiction to the findings of hundreds of meta-analyses, peer-reviewed studies, as cited in the 2011 World Health Organization Report, "Burden of Disease from Environmental Noise." Below are only a few citations from the 2011 WHO report.

- The 2011 WHO report was written primarily for “policy-makers, their technical advisers and staff from supporting agencies, and other stakeholders who need to estimate the effects of environmental noise. It brings together evidence-based information on health effects of environmental noise and provides exemplary guidance on how to quantify these effects.” (p. xiii). The WHO report concludes
 - “considerable work has been done on assessing the exposure of populations to noise sources such as air traffic and road traffic.” (p. 3)
 - **“There is sufficient evidence from large-scale epidemiological studies linking the population’s exposure to environmental noise with adverse health effects. Therefore, environmental noise should be considered not only as a cause of nuisance but also a concern for public health and environmental health.”** (p. xvii)
 - **“There is overwhelming evidence that exposure to environmental noise has adverse effects on the health of the population. Recognizing the special need to protect children from the harmful effects of noise, the Parma Declaration adopted at the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health called on all stakeholders to work together to reduce the exposure of children to noise....”** (p. 105)
 - **“The evidence, in general, of a positive association (of noise with cardiovascular effects on adults and children, and blood pressure, hypertension and ischaemic heart diseases in children) has increased during recent years.”** (p.16)
 - **For noise levels greater than 60 dB (A), the myocardial infarction risk increases.”** (p. 20)
 - Provide current health studies which address the health consequences to adults and children living in the noise zone
3. There was no crash data for FY 13 for the F-22 (page BR4-49/50) □
- Since safety estimates of the F-35A are based on the F-22, provide updated F-22 crash data.
 - Provide assessments of the likely number of crashes the F-35A will experience based on the flight hours the aircraft will have when they arrive at Burlington Air Guard Station (AGS). □

- Provide information on how many flight hours each individual aircraft will have when it arrives at Burlington AGS.]
- 4. There is no decibel level for the F-35A using afterburners (page BR4-21).]
 - In chart BR3.2.1, the decibel levels for the F-35 in afterburner assisted take-off and military power take-off at 1,000 ft are identical .
 - Provide the decibel level for the F-35A in afterburner take-off.
 - Can we be guaranteed that the F-35A will not exceed the stated percentage of time (5%) taking off in afterburner?]

Other Comments on the Revised Draft EIS

- On page 1-8 it states that prior to scoping meetings, the AF initiated direct contact with elected officials. Would you please provide more detail on these meetings?]
- Provide the scoring information for the other two Air Guard bases under consideration for basing: McEntire and Jacksonville.]
- Provide information on whether any Vermont Air Guard members will lose jobs, in particular, maintainer jobs, if the F-35A is based at Burlington AGS.]
- Provide information on the expected lifespan on the F-16s at VTANG.]
- The mitigation proposals (maintaining the same quiet hours, arrival and departure times, and single take-offs as the F-16) have resulted in the loss of approximately 200 affordable homes in South Burlington (p. 2-48, BR4-17). Are there any other mitigation measures that can be taken which reduce the level and frequency of noise?]

The statements on pages BR4-17/18 indicate that the AF has no responsibility and will play no role in remediation. The AF has financially assisted local areas in other locations. Will the AF consider financially assisting the locally affected municipalities?]

Below are additional errors and omissions found in the revised draft EIS:

1. On page ES-7 it states that the "majority of written comments (over 900) were from citizens in Vermont and Maine who were not supportive of the basing action at Burlington International Airport." Yet on page 1-9, it states that of the 913 comments received, 80% were in support of basing. In fact, only 35% of the comments were in support of the basing. 65% were opposed to the basing.]
 - Recommend comments be sub-divided by geographic location; specifically listing the views of those living within the 65 dB DNL and those living outside the 65 dB DNL.

2. The comparison chart, titled "Figure 13-1. Simplified Comparison of Environmental Consequences of Beddown Alternatives and Scenarios" that appeared on page ES-62 of the 2012 draft was omitted from the 2013 version.
3. The number of households and people in the noise zone is understated.

Households

- a. Data from the 2010 U.S. census shows that for scenario 1, there are 11% more households in the noise zone than what is stated in the RDEIS (3,290 vs. 2,963), and 13% more households for scenario 2 (3,864 vs. 3,410).
- b. Grand list and e911 data shows that for scenario 1, there are 23% more households in the noise zone than what is stated in the RDEIS (3,669 vs. 2,963), and 23% more households for scenario 2 (4,200 vs. 3,410).

People

- c. Census data shows that for scenario 1, there are 9% more people in the noise zone than what is stated in the RDEIS (7,280 vs. 6,663), and 11% more people for scenario 2 (8,592 vs. 7,719).
 - d. There is no information on the number of children living, or going to school within the 65 dB DNL. Provide this crucial information.
4. According to U.S. Census Data, the percentage of population growth in South Burlington from 2000-2010 was 20.3% (14,879-17,904). The RDEIS reports (on page BR4-77) only a 13% increase. The AF is looking at the incorrect census data from 2000. The 15,814 number was found to be in error due to over-counting of some students; and a corrected version was produced. Please use the corrected 2000 census report.
 5. The number of children living in Vermont is incorrect. On page BR4-80, 12,592 children are listed as living in the entire state. In the 2012 draft EIS on page BR4-75, 147,523 children were listed as living in Vermont.
 6. The AF did not include the Community College of Vermont (CCV) in Winooski as being in the noise zone. Under scenario 1, CCV would be in the 65 dB DNL zone. In scenario 2, CCV will be in the 70 dB DNL zone.
 7. The AF underestimated the number of noise events that will be heard at academic institutions, by overlooking the fact that colleges have late afternoon and evening classes.

8. The AF omitted all references to the official comments sent from the South Burlington City offices: the City Council, the Planning Commission, and the School Board. The official letters from each of these three bodies were reproduced among the comments, but the names of these city bodies were not included in the alphabetical listing of comments. Rather the individual names of the Councilors, Commissioners, and Board members appeared as if it came from private citizens. Entries were included in the alphabetical listing for the City of Burlington and the City of Winooski, but there were no entries for the South Burlington city organizations.

Last year the South Burlington City Council sent in a 17-page letter with questions, concerns, and comments. Some of those questions, concerns, and comments were not answered or addressed in the May 2013 report. Below is a listing of the unanswered questions and unaddressed comments.

Unanswered Questions

- What recourse the area has to challenge continued basing
- How many residential areas will be subject to 80dB DNL or higher
- Whether an analysis of the possible additional pollutants was conducted
- When another assessment of air quality will be conducted after basing
- The current safety status of the F-22, and the related safety assessment of the F-35A
- The risk to people living and working in the crash zones
- When and where the fuel will be dumped
- The effect of 18,000 pounds of fuel on the area's drinking water supply
- Whether the AF has informed the FAA of their erroneous noise data
- What recourse the community has if the projected noise and safety assessments prove to be worse than stated
- What factors so outweighed the costs to the population to have Burlington become the preferred alternative

Unaddressed Concerns

- Health effects on our children
- Loss of home values for local residents
- Loss of property taxes as a result of home value diminishing
- Effect on tourism
- Noise effects on the health of residents, including cardiovascular problems, birth weight, mortality rates, and physiological stress reaction

- Effects of 2,635 acres of local land being exposed to DNL above 65dB. "A DNL of 55 dB is a level "requisite to protect public health and welfare with an adequate margin of safety." (2012 DEIS page C-14)
- Noise effects on the learning and cognitive abilities, and the physiological impacts to the children attending Chamberlin Elementary School where the noise will be 68/70 dB DNL.
- The significance of 20 of the 22 representative locations near the airport being at or above the 65 dB DNL
- Whether mission profiles, training, and maintenance changes would result in different flight times and patterns
- How competing requirements for fresh water, power and other natural resources would be handled
- The strategies for dealing with drought conditions and a scarcity of fossil fuels

NOTE: It was only after compiling all of this information that we learned the paper and CD copies of the RDEIS were missing about 100 pages. And the missing pages were the ones that tracked the AF's response to comments. By the time, we received the missing pages, we had already expended a considerable amount of time looking for the AF responses within the text, and were not able to spend more hours re-looking for this information once the missing pages were provided. Therefore, we will let our list of unanswered questions and unaddressed concerns remain, knowing that there is the possibility that the AF did respond to some of those questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

Rosanne Greco
South Burlington City Councilor

Helen Riehle
South Burlington City Councilor

Sandra Dooley
Former South Burlington City Councilor

Pål Engels
Former South Burlington City Councilor

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From:
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:41 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F--35 basing in Burlington, Vermont

Nicholas Germanos,

I am opposed to basing the F-35 in Burlington. I live near the airport and the noise from the current F-16s at takeoff stops life in its tracks for nearly a minute. Please place these loud planes away from densely populated cities like Burlington.

Thank you.

James F. Wanner

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Alan
Sent: Monday, July 15, 2013 6:01 AM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F-35s being based at Burlington, Vermont, IAP

The following question bothers me, a lot. Especially in light of the fact that I remember seeing Vermont ANG F-16s sitting on the tarmac at the Langley air defense alert area. I saw this many times during my 12 years of reserve service in the Directorate of Public Affairs, Headquarters Air Combat Command, The six-mile fitness path that went out and around the airfield complex offered nice views if walked or run at the best time of day.

My question is this: How would basing more than a dozen F-35s at the Burlington airport best benefit national defense. And why is Burlington a better choice to take on a supposed air threat than say putting the F-35s at the former Plattsburgh AFB across Lake Champlain from Burlington? Having been the chief of public affairs at Plattsburgh for three years in the late 80s, I'm certain that most people living in the town and/or city of Plattsburgh would again welcome the presence at the former air base of new military jets.

The same could be said about putting them at the former Griffiss AFB near Utica, N.Y., or at the former Loring AFB in northern Maine. Or at the former Pease AFB in New Hampshire.

/s

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Read more here: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/05/05/3379264/miami-congressman-trekking-to-everglades.html#storylink=cpy>

ALAN C GREGORY

Lt. Col., USAF, Ret.

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Peter B. Schubart
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:43 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Cc: 'Peter B. Schubart'
Subject: F-35 in South Burlington, VT/ public comment period/ request for extension

Dear Mr. Germanos,

I write to request an extension of the public comment period for the F-35 EIS. I understand that the Air Force was late in releasing 100 pages of additional information in the RDEIS. The Public must have ample time to review this material.]

Thank you.

Peter Schubart

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Sheila Quenneville
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:45 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Opposition to the f35

Dear Mr, Germanos,

I am writing to state my opposition to f35s being based in South Burlington, I have lived her for 54 years, next door to my parents, and within walking distance to my sister and brother. They have moved as the airport bought their homes because they live within the 65dnl, My husband and I live just outside the current contour line (of houses they are buying). Not that we want to sell as we absolutely love this location and know how difficult it is to find affordable housing in this area. I have operated a home child care for 27 years as well and don't want to leave. I am very concerned about the impact of noise on young children. When the f16s fly overhead, with the afterburners on (which they do most of the time now, even though we were told years ago they wouldn't) toddlers will scream, cry and run to me in terror. They have no idea of what it is. We point to the planes, wave and cover our ears. Most children get conditioned to the sound. Some children are more sensitive to loud noises and it can bother them more, I can't even comprehend how a plane which could be four times louder will affect the children. The brain releases cortisol under stress and excess cortisol can have negative effects on brain development. I worry that they will also develop an over-active amygdala from continued exposure to unexpected and unknown extreme noises. The children are my main concern and as more and more reports about health and cognitive effects on them are released, I have even more worries and feel ethically bound to oppose the bed down of the F35s.

I certainly have other concerns about noise, health, vibrations to our home, deterioration of our neighborhood, elected officials who don't listen to our concerns, the obscene cost of these planes , chance of accidents, and so on. I would like to add that I feel our Ar National Guard is an incredible asset to our community and I believe the EIS report does not suggest the base will close as many say,

I appreciate this chance to comment and hope that the Air Force really listens to those of us who live in this area. I know many groups are getting people from other locations in Vermont to comment, but they are not affected by noise, loss of their homes, chance of accidents or reduction of property values of their homes. I am personally concerned clients many not want their children to attend my child care program because of the noise,

Sincerely,

Sheila Quenneville

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Les and Annie
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:45 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: No F35's in South Burlington

I am strongly opposed to the F35's being based within 1 mile of our house.

Annie Parker

The Parkers'
Les and Annie

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Rosemary o'connell
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:46 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F35

Nicholas Germanos,

I am absolutely opposed to basing the F35 in Burlington Vermont.
It will degrade the quality of life for thousands of Vermonters including myself.
The noise at my house and thousands near me will be intolerable.
It will harm the health of thousands of children and adults.
It will disproportionately effect the poor and minorities.
The lack of a safety record is reason alone, it should not be located in such a highly populated area.

Sincerely,
Rosemary OConnell

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Frederick Ringer
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:46 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: F-35 basing in Vermont

Dear Mr.

I am writing to request a brief extension of the Public Comment period, based upon the fact that at least 100 pages of important information were not released until nearly 3 weeks after the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement was released. Given that this section included substantive questions that people were asking, and the important information given by the Air Force in response to those questions, we believe that it is only reasonable to offer people ample time to consider that information.

Please extend the Public Comment period to offer the public 45 days starting from the date that the FULL Revised DEIS was released, rather than May 31st, the date on which the incomplete Revised DEIS was released. As you know, there is great controversy over this basing in our community. It is essential that Vermont citizens be given the most complete opportunity to read, understand, and respond to the information being released by the Air Force. It's crucial that the process by which this decision is made be free of further error.

Thank you.

Fred Ringer

Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS

From: Michael Dabs
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 9:47 PM
To: Germanos, Nicholas M Civ USAF HQ ACC/A7NS
Subject: Opposition to the F35 basing in Burlington VT

Mr Germanos,

I oppose the basing of F-35A's in Burlington.

I have followed this story for the past year and I have yet to see a reason that Burlington should be the preferred choice for this plane. The health concerns and potential loss of property values are too high a price to impose upon this community.

I would also request that an extension be made to allow the community to review the very revealing 100 page addition to the deis that was provided late.]

Thank you,

Michael Dabbs